

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 PRS-01 A-01 SS-07 NSC-06 /027 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (ALBERT, CARL) YO

SUBJECT: CODEL ALBERT: JACK ANDERSON COLUMN

PASS CODEL ALBERT, ATTENTION CARROLL BROWN

1. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE EXCERPT FROM JACK ANDERSON
COLUMN IN WASHINGTON POST AUGUST 21:

QUOTE: WATCH ON WASTE - THE STATE DEPARTMENT FIRED OFF
A CURIOUS, CLASSIFIED CABLE TO BARCELONA, BELGRADE,
BUCHAREST, COPENHAGEN, LENINGRAD, AND MOSCOW.

THESE ARE THE CITIES, APPARENTLY, WHERE HOUSE SPEAKER
CARL ALBERT (D-OKLA) IS TAKING A DELEGATION OF 18
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR SPOUSES. THE CABLE
EXPLAINED THAT THE ACCOMPANYING AIR FORCDE ESCORT
OFFICERS WERE CARRYING TEN ONE-THOUSAND DOLLAR U.S.
TREASURY CHECKS "TO COVER CERTAIN COSTS OF THE TRIP."

THE CABLE ASKED WHETHER "CASHING CHECKS IN THESE AMOUNTS
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WILL BE A PROBLEM." APPARENTLY, IT WILL NOT BE.

WHAT IS A PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS FINDING OUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS MYSTERIOUS TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR ALLOWANCE. NO ONE AT THE PENTAGON OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT COULD EXPLAIN TO US WHY THE ESCORT OFFICERS RECEIVED THE 10 CHECKS. NO ONE SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT "CERTAIN COSTS" WOULD BE PAID OUT OF THE 10,000 DOLLARS.

WE FOUND OUT HOW THE MONEY WON'T BE SPENT. NO PART OF THE 10,000 DOLLARS, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL BE HANDED OUT TO THE REPRESENTATIVES AS SPENDING MONEY. THIS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THEM FROM COUNTERPART FUNDS - AT THE RATE OF 75 DOLLARS A DAY FOR EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS ON THE TRIP.

NOR WILL THE 10,000 DOLLARS BE USED TO OFFSET THE COST (DOLLARS 2,200 PER HOUR) OF OPERATING THE SPECIAL AIR FORCE JET. WE ARE ASSURED THE MONEY ALSO WON'T BE SPENT ON THE 19-MAN AIR FORCE CREW, THE FOUR AIR FORCE ESCORT OFFICERS, OR THE TWO STATE DEPARTMENT AIDES WHO ARE ACCOMPANYING THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION.

WE ARE TOLD THE PLANE TRAVEL WILL COST THE TAXPAYERS 64,900 DOLLARS AND THE DAILY EXPENSES WILL RUN 33,00 DOLLARS. WHEN WE FIND OUT HOW THE 10,000 DOLLARS WAS SPENT, WE'LL LET YOU KNOW. END QUOTE

2. ADVISE ANY GUIDANCE CODEL MIGHT WISH TO PROVIDE ON HANDLING PRESS QUERIES (SUBJECT WAS NOT RAISED AT NOON BRIEFING AUGUST 21). MAW

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